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Deconcentration: a policy tailored for Ontario's needs

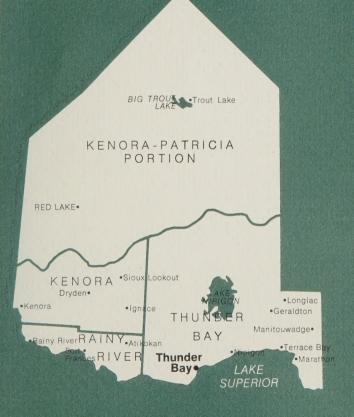
The Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs is responsible for fiscal, economic, regional and intergovernmental policies of the Government of Ontario. To fulfill our responsibilities, we work closely with other ministries and agencies of the provincial government, other governments in Canada, the municipalities of Ontario and individual citizens.

Traditionally our services have been provided from Queen's Park, but the diversity of Ontario along with the range of our ministry's interests and the different groups we serve has led to a program of deconcentration of ministry resources and staff to offices in the five planning regions into which Ontario has been divided. They are Eastern, Central, Southwestern, Northeastern and Northwestern and they permit the government to develop policies and programs to meet the needs of specific areas.

Along with the regional offices, the ministry has established Municipal Advisory Committees on a trial basis in Northeastern and Northwestern Ontario. The committees which are made up of municipal representatives will work with our regional staff in developing and adapting provincial policies and strategies to the economic and social needs of their regions.

When he announced deconcentration in September 1973, Treasurer John White said it will allow 'local decisions to be made on the spot by senior staff who are in continuing consultation with local governments'. Coupled with deconcentration is a program of decentralization under which local municipal councils are given increased authority to make decisions on local issues without requiring special approval from Queen's Park.

the Northwestern Ontario region



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our Thunder Bay office

The Northwestern Ontario Planning Region of the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs embraces the districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay.

The regional office is located in Thunder Bay and the primary role of this office is to provide advice to municipalities over a wide range of local government functions and to assist municipalities in establishing the most appropriate techniques for carrying them out. Additional roles include the provision of advice on all provincial and federal policies relating to local government; the examination of the impact of these policies on local government; conveying the local viewpoint to the appropriate government levels and assisting the new units of local government emerging out of the Province's local government restructuring program.

Our staff in Thunder Bay will be increasingly involved in new government programs for northern development and the establishment of local government in small communities in unorganized territories.

DIRECTORY OF SERVICES

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Ministry of Treasury Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honourable John White minister
The Honourable Donald Irvine minister without portfolio
A. Rendall Dick deputy minister